

**PROPOSED ACTION PLAN
LANGUAGE MODIFICATION WORKSHEET**

NAME: Ruth Vreeland

SEAT REPRESENTED: AMBAG

ACTION PLAN: Operations and Administration

STRATEGY NAME: OA-3: Sanctuary Advisory Council

ACTIVITY NAME: 3.3: Changes to the SAC Charter and Protocols

WHAT is the Original Strategy or Action Language You Would Like to Modify?

Activity 3.3, paragraph 3

WHY is Modification to Strategy or Activity Language Necessary?

The overall question of the SAC's functioning, including its current domination by Program and MBNMS management – e. g., selection of members, setting of agendas, and communications – raises serious concerns about the SAC's ability to function effectively, now and in future, as liaison between the community and Sanctuary management, and to fulfill its other vital role as cooperating partner in Sanctuary management.

This concern was noted in the NAPA report which stated:

"...the charters clearly convey distrust, and they utterly fail to suggest how the council can help a sanctuary become a more influential and effective force for marine conservation. Since the sanctuary program appoints council members for limited terms, one might think that the sanctuary manager would have a great deal of influence over the council and would not want to spell out the council's limited authority quite so plainly... The charter is hardly an invitation to council members to roll up their sleeves and help."

Of further concern is the lack of participatory recognition given in SAC deliberations generally and the Management Plan Review Process to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), which is comprised of elected officials representing 25 public agencies (not including any from San Mateo County). AMBAG voted unanimously to request major changes in the SAC Charter and Protocols.

As written, this Activity description, and this paragraph in particular, say nothing of use to the public as to this profoundly important concern, whether the plan proposes to address it, and if so, how. This needs to be articulated.

HOW Would You Change the Language to Replace the Original Language?

Amend paragraph 3 as follows: Make it the fifth paragraph.

Insert a new third paragraph as follows:

"Under the current SAC structure, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), which is comprised of elected officials representing 25 public agencies (not including any from San Mateo County), is provided minimal representation and participation in both SAC deliberations generally, and the Management Plan Review Process in particular. AMBAG voted unanimously to request major changes in the SAC Charter and Protocols. The AMBAG recommendations concerning the SAC include the following:

- AMBAG and MBNMS should jointly convene a staff level local governments and affected special districts liaison group (similar to the Urban Runoff Task Force) to address SAC issues and upcoming MBNMS projects and programs. This would assist MBNMS in early identification of issues affecting local governments.
- MBNMS should use the AMBAG Board of Directors to obtain policy input on all Sanctuary issues affecting local governments.
- Have a more representative SAC member selection process to ensure that members are seated who truly represent their areas of interest.

- MBNMS should contract with AMBAG to develop and maintain an ongoing local government liaison and outreach program.
- Request amendment of the Charter and Protocols to enable the SAC to communicate with Congress without concurrence of the MBNMS Superintendent.
- Request amendment of the Charter and Protocols to require SAC members to file an annual conflict of interest disclosure statement."

Insert a new fourth paragraph as follows:

"The following changes to the Charter and Protocols also have been proposed and should be considered for adoption in order to strengthen the SAC's legitimacy in the community and its effectiveness in carrying out its liaison and partnership roles:

- SAC membership: The various user groups and constituencies represented on the SAC should be able to choose their own representatives without final approval by the MBNMS management. Types of representation on the SAC should be reviewed periodically.
- SAC agendas: The SAC should have the authority to set its own meeting agendas, provided that it gives adequate notice to MBNMS management and the public and affords management an opportunity to place items on the SAC agenda that it deems necessary.
- SAC communications: SAC written communications should not require prior MBNMS management approval. The SAC should have the ability to keep its several Congressional representatives apprised of its deliberations and other relevant matters of MBNMS business.
- SAC members shall file annual conflict of interest statements that identify both the individual's and the individual's organization's, if any economic interests and/or other dependencies and relationships with the Sanctuary Program.
- Review of the SAC's Charter and Protocols should be done independently of the SAC, the MBNMS, and the NMSP. This independent review shall include, at a minimum, representatives of AMBAG, San Luis Obispo County, and San Mateo County, unless the MBNMS/GFNMS boundary is changed to remove San Mateo County waters, in which case the latter would not be represented."

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ACTIVITY NAME: None

WHAT is the Original Strategy or Action Language You Would Like to Modify?

None; introductory two paragraphs to Strategy OA-3

WHY is Modification to Strategy or Activity Language Necessary?

The Plan should more strongly emphasize strengthening ties between Program and MBNMS staff management and user groups, local governments, agencies and the broader community who are involved in the MBNMS. Long-term cooperative relationships with the above will remain the most effective means to address resource protection concerns. The Plan should explicitly indicate the MBNMS's intent to evaluate its ability to sustain ties with the SAC to enable the SAC to have the independence needed to successfully execute its charge. The Plan should enhance flexibility in MBNMS's management approaches, working through these cooperative relationships, and avoid the Sanctuary's becoming a rigid regulatory bureaucracy, which is an increasingly common impression among constituents. These paragraphs should state these intentions clearly.

HOW Would You Change the Language to Replace the Original Language?

Insert a new paragraph following "Purpose" as follows:

"Through this strategy, the Plan provides the basis and direction for strengthening the ties between Sanctuary management and the user groups, local governments, agencies and the broader community who have been, and will continue to be involved in the MBNMS's creation and functioning. MBNMS will review ways of providing the SAC with increased independence and strengthening of its role as a trusted partner in MBNMS management, and as an effective liaison between management and the community."

